

PATENT

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/612,094

Preliminary Amendment

Attorney Docket No. 03-11987

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application. Kindly cancel Claim 6, without prejudice, and amend Claims 4, 7, and 10 as follows. No new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) A connecting structure, comprising:
 - 2 a post with a first end, middle portion, and a second end; and
 - 4 a plurality of prongs flexibly connected to said first end, extending away from said post and toward said second end in a generally V-shape configuration and an abutment stop intermediate said middle portion and said second end.
2. (withdrawn) The connecting structure of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of prongs are configured to extend through an aperture and expand to a width larger than the aperture.
2. (withdrawn) The connecting structure of Claim 2, wherein said second end is adapted to be received by a coil spring that is adjacent to said second end of said post.
4. (currently amended) A novelty system comprising:
 - 2 a body having a plurality of apertures;
 - 4 one or more appendages corresponding to one or more said plurality of apertures and
 - 6 for securement to project in a displaceably suspended manner from said body, each said appendage including at least one flexible connecting member, the at least one flexible connecting member comprising a coil spring; [[and]]
 - 8 a connecting structure that secures said one or more appendages to said body, the connecting structure comprising a post with a first end, a middle portion, and a second end, and a plurality of securing prongs flexibly coupled to [[a]] the first end of said post and

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10 adapted to be inserted through said plurality of apertures and retained therein, said securing
prongs extending elastically towards said body to terminate at respective termini for
12 engagement therewith, and the plurality of securing prongs extending away from said post and
toward [[a]] the second end of said post, one end of said flexible connecting member connected
14 to said connecting structure and another end connected to said appendage[.]); and
a coil spring for facilitating displaceable suspension of the appendage in relation to the
16 body, the coil spring further comprising an L-shaped configuration, the post being coaxially
inserted into a first end of the coil spring, and the post comprising a barrier for stopping
18 removal of the coil spring from the post.

5. (previously presented) The novelty system of Claim 4, wherein said one or more
2 appendages comprises a wing structure.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The novelty system of Claim [[6]] 4, wherein said one or more
2 appendages comprise an enclosure for facilitating its securing to said second end of said
connecting structure.

Claim 8 (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The novelty system of Claim 7, wherein said connecting
2 member has a spring constant that allows the one or more appendages to be freely movable
with respect to said body responsive to wind actuation.

10. (currently amended) A kit for constructing a novelty comprising:
2 a plurality of detached novelty portions combinable for shipping said novelty in at least
a partially unassembled form, said novelty portions comprising a body with apertures for
4 receiving connecting structures, one or more appendages including at least one flexible

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connecting member comprising a coil spring extending therefrom, and connecting structures
6 for facilitating connection of said appendages to said body by connecting one end of said
flexible connecting member to one of said connecting structures and connecting another end to
8 said body,

10 said one or more appendages being securable upon assembly of said novelty to project
in a displaceably suspended manner from said body by operatively connecting said connecting
structures with said apertures of said body, each said connecting structure comprising a
12 plurality of securing prongs flexibly coupled to a first end of each said connecting structure to
extend towards said body, and said securing prongs terminating at respective termini for
14 engaging said body[[.]],

16 the coil spring facilitating displaceable suspension of the appendage in relation to the
body, the coil spring further comprising an L-shaped configuration, the post being coaxially
inserted into a first end of the coil spring, and the post comprising a barrier for stopping
18 removal of the coil spring from the post.

11. (previously presented) The kit of Claim 10, wherein said connecting structures are
2 insertable into said apertures.

12. (withdrawn) A method for constructing a connecting connector, comprising:
2 producing a post with securing prongs;
3 inserting said post into a first end of a connecting member; and
4 coupling said post to said connecting member.

13. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 12, further comprising coupling a second end of
2 said connecting member to an appendage.

14. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 13, wherein said connecting member is a coil
2 spring.

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15. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 14, wherein said connecting member is generally L-shaped.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein said coupling the post comprises heating said post to create a barrier such that said connecting member is not easily removable from said post.